

little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him." (I. John 3:19-20). "And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by His Spirit which he hath given us" (I. John 3:24). These verses, closely related to each other, taken from 1 John 3, show that true certainty concerning our spiritual experience must be based on both the Spirit's abiding presence and witness, and our practical godliness.

The same truth is taught in Romans 8:14 and 16. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Those two statements, which must not be separated, present two witnesses to our relationship. There is the Spirit's direct witness. There is also the testimony of our being led by the Spirit, which as we have already seen, includes His leadings and our obedience, resulting, as the whole chapter shows, in a mighty ministry of the Spirit, and a spiritual and triumphant experience. These two witnesses are presented together in Scripture because they belong together in experience. It is true that the Spirit witnesses directly to the heart, to work accomplished and blessings received; but it will be quickly accompanied by the practical proof of an inward and outward conformity to the image of God's Son.

When and How Witness is Received

How is the direct witness of the Spirit received? When full obedience to God has been given the heart attitude must be one of faith. There must be faith without doubting, faith in the God who has promised, faith that appropriates. "He that believeth—hath the witness in himself" (I. John 5:10). It is at this point that many fail. They seek the Spirit's witness as a basis for faith, and so reverse the Scriptural order.

Dr. S. A. Keen has written in his Faith Papers: "In proportion as a seeking soul is anxiously concerned for the witness of the Holy Spirit, in that degree it is doubting. Sometimes, indeed most generally, the last bulwark of unbelief that surrenders to faith is to accept salvation on the Word of the Lord without the witness of the Holy Spirit, and to rejoice that the Holy Spirit in His own time and in His own way will attest the saving work wrought in us."

In some cases the witness seems to almost overtake the asking. With others it comes immediately obedience and faith are presented to God. Some, however, have found the witness to tarry. Commissioner Brengle tells in Helps to Holiness, of two Salvationists who waited for three weeks before the inward testimony was received.

The reason for the different experiences may not be easily explained, but let the seeker present to God an obedient and trusting heart, and the witness will surely be given, for, "He is faithful that promised." Then let there be continued obedience and faith, together with faithful attendance to the means of grace, and definite testifying, and the witness will abide.

WHERE DID CAIN GET HIS WIFE?

This is a question which has been asked by all kinds of people since the Word of God was given in written form. Skeptics and infidels have asked it; honest doubters have asked it; and sincere believers have requested information concerning it.

In the Bible we read that God created Adam and Eve; that He formed Adam out of the dust of the earth, and "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." He then caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam, and from his side He took a rib, from which He formed Eve. That is where Adam got his wife!

Now, the Bible says Adam and Eve had two sons, whose names were Cain and Abel. But Cain killed Abel because of envy and jealousy in his heart and, as a punishment, God banished him to the wilderness. The next we read about him is that he went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

In Genesis 4:17 it speaks of his taking a wife, and to them was born a son by the name of Enoch. Now, where did Cain get his wife?

Since only two sons were born, where did the woman come in? To reason thus is simply to assume that just because God does not mention anything about daughters being born, there were none; but such was not the case. Girls did not count too much in olden times; in fact, in heathen lands even today they are not wanted. Even now in Africa they are sold or exchanged for a cow, or so many sheep or goats. It was only Christ who gave woman her rightful place. Then, too, people forget the time element which entered into the Old Testament Scriptures. Do you know how long Adam lived? Genesis 5:3 says that he was 130 years old when his son Seth was born. Then verse 4 says he lived 800 years after that and "begat sons and daughters." All the days that Adam lived were 930 years. How many people do you suppose could be born in that length of time? How many people would have multiplied on the earth in almost 1,000 years? I can imagine Cain could have had millions from which to choose a wife, for he, too, lived a long time!

Now, let me give you young folk just a word of admonition. It is not half as important for you to know where Cain got his wife as it is where you are to get that companion of yours with whom you expect to go through life. Just where are you looking for her? Do you expect to choose her from off the dance floor, or out of a cocktail bar? If so, you will probably find just what you are looking for.

Do you know where I got my wife? I got her in Bible college. We were both studying for the Christian ministry; different phases, of course, nevertheless our vision, call and ideals were the same. It is absolutely imperative, if we are to have a happy home, to have similar desires and ambitions. The thrill of my life as a minister is to see my young people find one another in the House of the Lord, after they have separately found Christ as their Saviour. Then to unite them in marriage, help them solve their problems, see them stand together and dedicate their children to God—that is what helps to make the Christian ministry worth while.

I hope this little message helps to answer at least one question in your minds. I know, young folk, that if your future home is founded on Christ and the Word, most of the problems of life will be solved. God says, "How can two walk together except they be agreed?" Therefore, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."

It is far more important to concern yourself about where you will find your companion, than to question God's Word, wondering where Cain got his wife.—Gospel and Song.

GOD'S GUIDANCE

E. E. Shelhamer

There are two classes of people in the world, and likewise two classes of teachers. One class is suspicious of any strong impression, for fear it might be fanaticism. The other class go to the other extreme and receive all impression as from God. Thomas Upham says, "Those impulses and impressions which are from God are of a peaceful and gentle character. They lay a wholesome restraint upon the mind, and hold it in a state of deep solemnity and attentive stillness. Impressions and impulses which are not from the Holy Spirit, but from some other source such as a disordered imagination, the world, or the devil, are not of that peaceful and quiet character, which have been mentioned, but are hasty and violent."

I will not mention the difference between true and false impressions. Impressions from the devil are, as a rule, very strong and impressive at first, but upon deliberate investigation, become more uncertain, and sometimes absurd. On the other hand, those from God are very gentle and unassuming at first, but by being put to the test, become fixed and established.

Impressions from beneath are always accompanied by a hurry spirit, such as, "You must do it now or never! If you hesitate, you will lose your opportunity, and fearful consequences may follow." Not so with impressions from above, God allows plenty of time to consider and be fully persuaded. If you should miss one opportunity while honestly confused, He can give you another just as good.

Impressions from Satan are usually accompanied by an unteachable unyielding spirit; while those from God will patiently bear and survive contradictions and misrepresentations from friends or foes.

Impressions or leadings from the devil are usually evasive and impatient at the thought of investigation, while those from God are open and free from deception.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God."

From a Tract: Impressions True and False.

NO TIME FOR GOD

No time for God?

What fools we are, to clutter up

Our lives with common things

And leave without heart's gate

The Lord of life and Life itself—

Our God.

No time for God?

As soon to say, no time

To eat or sleep or love or die.

Take time for God

Or you shall dwarf your soul,

And when the angel death

Comes knocking at your door,

A poor misshapen thing you'll be

To step into eternity.

No time for God?

That day when sickness comes

Or trouble finds you out

And you cry out for God;

Will He have time for you?

No time for God?

Some day you'll lay aside

This mortal self and make your way

To worlds unknown,

And when you meet Him face to face

Will He—Should He,

Have time for you?

—Sel.